

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5283

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T TOKYO 13462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: HOMEBASING OF PATROL SQUADRON

REF: STATE 218201

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE LOCAL RESISTANCE TO HOMEBASING OF PATROL SQUADRON AT KADENA OR MISAWA. LOCAL PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, PROBABLY WOULD BE MANAGEABLE PROVIDED WE COULD CONSULT WELL IN ADVANCE WITH GOJ. LOCAL COMMUNITIES WILL VIEW HOMEBASING AS EVIDENCE OF INTENT TO PROLONG US PRESENCE AND MAY WELL BELIEVE THAT PLANS WERE CONCEALED FROM THEM DURING THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED BY GOJ TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF PATROL SQUADRON RELOCATION TO KADENA AND MISAWA.

2. BECAUSE OF THESE FACTORS, PUBLIC HANDLING OF PROPOSED HOMEBASING ARRANGEMENT WOULD TAKE ON SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. GOJ WILL PROBABLY BE RELUCTANT TO SEE ARRANGEMENT SURFACED PUBLICLY BEFORE COMPLETION P3 MOVE TO KADENA AND RESOLUTION OF PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MISAWA MOVE. IN ANY EVENT, OUR PROBLEMS WILL BE LESSENERED TO THE EXTENT THAT TERM QTE HOMEBASING UNQTE CAN BE AVOIDED IN PUBLIC.

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3. IF SQUADRONS ARE HOMEBASED OUTSIDE JAPAN, EMBASSY IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE EFFECT ON ROTATIONAL UNITS NOW DEPLOYED IN JAPAN ON A SIX-MONTH BASIS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF GUAM IS SELECTED AS HOMEBASE, AND THIS RESULTS IN CANCELLATION OR SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN PROJECTED P3 USE OF KADENA OR MISAWA, POLITICAL IMPACT COULD BE SERIOUS. GOJ WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO EXPLAIN CURRENT RELOCATION PROGRAMS AND THE SUBSTANTIAL SUMS BEING SPENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF P3 FACILITIES AT KEDENA AND MISAWA. IF HOMEBASING WILL RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF P3 ACTIVITY AT EITHER BASE, GOJ MUST BE INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
HODGSON

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NNN

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